

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
24 July 2003 (24.07.2003)

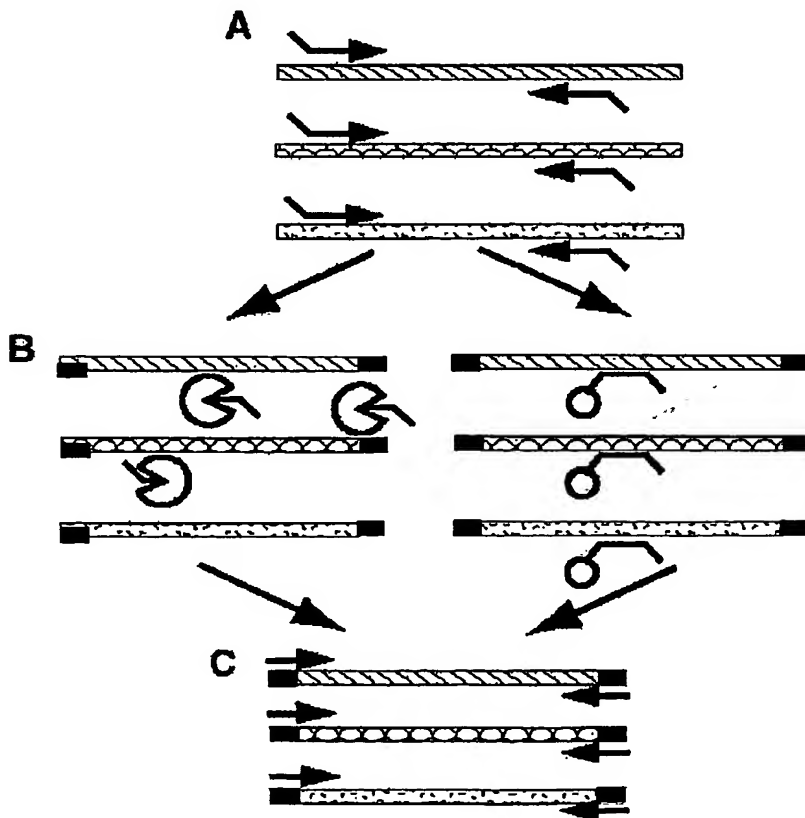
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/060159 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C12Q 1/68**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/GB03/00195**
- (22) International Filing Date: **15 January 2003 (15.01.2003)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data: **15 July 04**
0200828.2 15 January 2002 (15.01.2002) GB
60/348,396 16 January 2002 (16.01.2002) US
- (63) Related by continuation (CON) or continuation-in-part (CIP) to earlier application:
US Filed on US 60/348,396 (CIP) Not furnished
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- (81) Designated States (national): **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT (utility model), AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA,**

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHODS OF NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION**



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method of simultaneously amplifying a plurality of target sequences within sample nucleic acid which comprises: (a) contacting said sample nucleic acid with one or more primer pairs under conditions which allow hybridisation of the primers to the sample nucleic acid, each primer having a bipartite structure A-B wherein part A is specific for a particular target sequence within the sample nucleic acid and part B is a constant sequence which is common to all primers or is common amongst all forward primers with a different sequence common amongst all reverse primers; (b) performing a first amplification reaction; (c) degrading the bipartite primers or separating them from the amplification products of the first amplification reaction; (d) contacting the amplification products from the first amplification reaction with primers which comprise part B of the bipartite primers or a nucleotide sequence which is substantially identical to part B, under conditions which allow hybridisation of the primers to the amplification products; and (e) performing a second amplification reaction and kits for use in such methods.